WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A color processing method for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing method comprising:

calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located between the representative color and the target color.

2.   The color processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

calculating a reproduction distance coefficient, which is used to calculate the reproduction color, on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein:

in the calculation of the reproduction color, the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance coefficient.

3.   The color processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

calculating a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

in the calculation of the reproduction color, the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

4.   The color processing method according to claim 3, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient is calculated on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

5.   The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient is expressed by one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

6.   The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient is constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than a predetermined value but the reproduction distance coefficient is expressed

by a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than the predetermined value.

5   7.   The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

10   8.   The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

       9.   The color processing method according to claim 1,
15   further comprising:
       adjusting colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

       10.   A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors
20   of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:
       a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing
25   the specific region in the color image and a target color, which

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is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

a reproduction color decision section for deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located between the representative color and the target color.

11. A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:

a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color;

a reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit for calculating a reproduction distance coefficient, which is used to calculate a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after color adjustment, on the basis of the color adjustment distance; and

a reproduction color calculation unit for calculating the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance coefficient.

12. The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a brightness adjustment coefficient calculation unit for calculating a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust the brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

the reproduction color calculation unit calculates the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

13. The color processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient calculation unit calculates the brightness adjustment coefficient on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

14. The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

15. The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with a function of the color adjustment distance

5   which takes a constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than a predetermined value, but is a differentiable and continuous function when the color adjustment distance is larger than the predetermined value.

10   16. The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

15   17. The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

18. The color processing apparatus according to claim

20 10, further comprising:
        a color adjustment unit for adjusting the colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

19. A storage medium for storing a program readable

25 by a computer, the program making the computer execute a color

process for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of color adjustment in a color image, wherein the program making the computer execute a color processing comprising:

5   calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

10   deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located between the representative color and the target color.

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       20.   A printer comprising:

       a color processing device for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, wherein the color processing apparatus includes:

20   a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target

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color; and

a reproduction color decision section for deciding

a reproduction color expressing the representative color

of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis

5   of the color adjustment distance, wherein the

reproduction color is located between the representative

color and the target color.